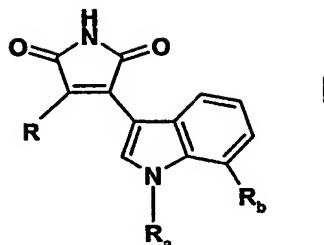


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CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I

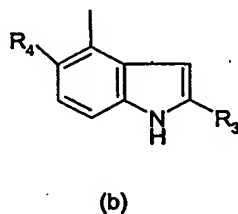
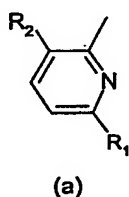


wherein

R_a is H; C_{1-4} alkyl; or C_{1-4} alkyl substituted by OH, NH_2 , NHC_{1-4} alkyl or $N(di-C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

R_b is H; halogen; C_{1-6} alkyl; or C_{1-6} alkoxy, and

R is a radical of formula (a) or (b)



wherein

each of R_1 and R_3 is a heterocyclic residue; or a radical of formula α



wherein X is a direct bond, O, S or NR_{11} wherein R_{11} is H or C_{1-4} alkyl,

R_c is C_{1-4} alkylene or C_{1-4} alkylene wherein one CH_2 is replaced by CR_xR_y wherein one of R_x and R_y is H and the other is CH_3 , each of R_x and R_y is CH_3 or R_x and R_y form together $-CH_2-CH_2-$,

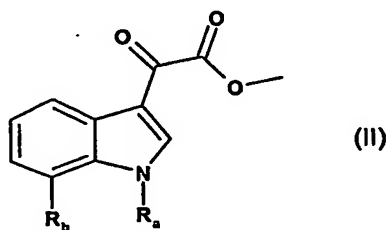
Y is bound to the terminal carbon atom and is selected from OH, $-NR_{12}R_{13}$ wherein each of R_{12} and R_{13} , independently, is H, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, aryl, aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, heteroaryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy or $-NR_{14}R_{15}$ wherein each of R_{14} and R_{15} , independently, is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, aryl- C_{1-4} alkyl, or R_{12} and R_{13} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue; and

each of R_2 and R_4 , independently, is H; halogen; C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{1-4} alkoxy; CF_3 ; nitrile; nitro or amino,

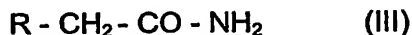
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or a salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_a is H, methyl, ethyl, or isopropyl, or a salt thereof.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R_b is H, Cl, methyl or ethyl, or a salt thereof.
4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein R_1 is a heterocyclic residue, e.g. a piperazinyl, optionally substituted on a ring nitrogen or on a ring carbon, e.g. 4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl, or 4,7-diaza-spiro[2.5]oct-7-yl; or a radical of formula (α) wherein X is a direct bond, R_c is CH_2 and Y is $-NR_{12}R_{13}$ wherein each of R_{12} and R_{13} , independently, is H, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted on the terminal carbon atom by OH, halogen, C_{1-4} alkoxy or $-NR_{14}R_{15}$ wherein each of R_{14} and R_{15} , independently, is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; or R_{12} and R_{13} form together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound a heterocyclic residue e.g. a piperazinyl, or a salt thereof.
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R_2 and/or R_4 is H; Cl, F; CF_3 ; nitrile; nitro or amino, or a salt thereof.
6. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula II



wherein R_a and R_b are as defined in claim 1,
with a compound of formula III



wherein R is as defined in claim 1,
and, where required, converting the resulting compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form or vice versa, as appropriate.

7. A compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form for use as a pharmaceutical.

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8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in free form or in a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.
9. A compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment or prevention of disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3 β .
10. A method for preventing or treating disorders or diseases mediated by T lymphocytes and/or PKC or GSK-3 β in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.